



State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

Post Office Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

Rizwan Ahmed
Chairman
(225) 342-7105
(225) 219-4994 fax
Rizwan.Ahmed@la.gov

Vice Chairman
Vacant

Approved 04/25/07

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

The Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) met during the Louisiana Fire Chief's Association on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Gonzales, 1500 W. Highway 30, Gonzales, Louisiana. Committee Chair Rizwan Ahmed called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. The roll was called by Ms. Lorita Ford, and a quorum was established.

Committee Members Present:

Rizwan Ahmed (Chair)

Chief Robert Black

Joe Drago

Chief Freddy Drennan

Michael Austin (for Ed Driesse)

Heyward Jeffers

Fredia Dunn (for Michael Ranatza)

Rex McDonald (for Mickey McMorris)

Lt. Col. Robert Morris

Col. Ron Johnson

Susan Severance

Representing Agency:

Division of Administration &

Office of Information Technology

LA Fire Chief's Association

Dept. of Transportation and Development

Police Chief's Association

LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals

LA Senate Select Committee on

Homeland Security

LA Commission on Law Enforcement

LA State Police

LA National Guard

LA National Guard

Attorney General's Office/OHSEP

State/Parish Agency Representatives Present:

Eric Deroche

Richard Gremillion

Col. Kenneth Hughes

Donald Milligan (for S. Wiley-Gremillion)

Ed Day (for Thomas Thibeaud)

Region 3 Assumption/St. James OHSEP

Regional Parish Homeland Security

& Emergency Preparedness Directors

Committee/Region 5 Calcasieu OHSEP

Region 1 Plaquemines OHSEP

Region 6 Rapides OHSEP

Region 9 Washington OHSEP

Guest List
See Appendix A

Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2007

On motion of Chief Robert Black, seconded by Richard Gremillion the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2007 meeting with any necessary corrections.

LANG Turtle/Rover Presentation and MVNO Briefing

Colonel Ron Johnson gave a slide presentation on the Louisiana National Guard Communications Concept of Operations. Following Col. Johnson's presentation, he introduced Mr. James O'Reilly to present a briefing on the Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO) concept. A question and answer session follow their presentations.

Technical Planning Committee

Richard Gremillion presented the following items of discussions and recommendations:

Identify systems that are in use, with particular attention to gateway devices. Planning for gateway devices need to be included in the state operations plans

Use the UASI plans as a basis for the state plans

Concentrate on regions that do not currently have interoperability plans

Remind regions that 70% of Homeland Security funds are for interoperability and that money could be used to hire a contractor to help write a plan

The state plan needs to outline interoperability between parish EOC's

The committee will look into the feasibility of moving the current 800 MHz in some locations in south Louisiana to north Louisiana to increase capacity

Assessment & Technology Sub-Committee

The technology sub-committee of the SIEC met on Tuesday April, 10 at the St. James Parish EOC. Eric Deroche provided the committee with a demo of their console patching capabilities. Eric explained what their system is lacking in order to provide interoperability with VHF and UHF systems and further explained their communication needs.

After discussion concerning the IP based solution, the technology sub-committee is recommending to the full SIEC that the SIEC LA National Guard Staff and the technology committee visit each region/parish dispatch centers statewide to identify the interoperability communications needs of each respective parish.

It was brought to the attention of the technology sub-committee that several regions have complied a Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan (TIC-P) and recommends that the SIEC develop policy and procedures for the use of the Statewide Interoperability Channels to be included in the region's plan.

The technology sub-committee also recommends establishing policy and procedures concerning the proper use of patching gateway devices such as the ACU-1000 to the statewide system to prevent overloading or locking up the system.

Chief Black, Chair for the technology sub-committee, reported that the State Police communications trailer and a communications unit from GOSHEP are on display outside at the LA Fire Chiefs Annual Conference for all to view.

Chief Black also reminded the committee that the LA National Guard will be conducting a presentation at the LA Fire Chiefs Conference on Friday April 13 10:30 a.m. at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales.

Finance and Funding Sub-Committee

Heyward Jeffers reported that he has drafted and Sen. Barham is pre-filing a bill providing state funding to every parish for a parish director of homeland security and emergency preparedness. The estimated cost of this proposal will be \$3.84 million.

Included in the Governor's currently proposed budget is \$11.5 million for four SIEC support staff positions and various other (and not yet decided) interoperability issues across the state.

He stated that the Office of State purchasing has informed him that announcements will go out to vendors this week for most of the items SIEC has acquired in its BA-7 request that was approved by the Joint Committee on the Budget. This is \$9.8 million.

Mr. Jeffers is working with General Hunt Downer on additional funds in the 2007/2008 budget for other interoperability issues. He further stated that this session could promise to be a real landmark due to term limits for many legislators, an outgoing governor, and record amounts of one-time revenues to be discussed.

Policies and Procedures Sub-Committee

Susan Severance presented three documents for the SIEC's consideration: 1) sample letter reflecting a request for access to the 700 MHz system; 2) "User Information Form" intended for use by the system administrator; and 3) 700 MHz System Fleet Map. These documents were prepared by Rizwan Ahmed. A copy of the documents was distributed to the members of SIEC, with the recommendation that they be posted to the SIEC website to facilitate the application process.

At the conclusion of Ms. Severance's report, there was discussion by the members of the SIEC as to the need for on-going updates to the System Fleet Map. Ms. Severance made a motion, seconded by Freddie Morris, that the sample letter and "user information form" be posted to the SIEC website and that the System Fleet Map be updated and posted to the website as well, with recognition of the continuing need to update the map by the staff of the SIEC as the system expands. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

There was further discussion relative to the need of the SIEC, rather than a subcommittee, to approve an application for access to the system. It was determined that under the present status of the governance of the SIEC as set forth in the Executive Order, that the SIEC must approve applications.

Old Business

Advertisements for the staff position are being published in major newspapers and APCO. It was further discussed that the Director's position would be filled first and that person would play a role in getting the other staff positions filled.

The RFC for IP Based solution should be out in the next day or two. The Name Brand Contract is available and members should inform vendors to participate by contacting State Purchasing.

New Business

A letter was presented from Acadian Ambulance seeking approval to be included on the 700 MHz communications system for the State of Louisiana. More specifically they requested access to the emergency interoperability frequency to be utilized during emergency operations. After further discussion, a motion was made by Eric Deroche, seconded by Susan Severance to defer an answer to Acadian Ambulance until more information is received. The motion passed.

The Committee voted unanimously to purchase a microphone sound system for use by the Committee at its meetings.

A motion was made by Eric Deroche, seconded by Chief Robert Black to approve a request from St. Mary Parish to be added to the 700 MHz. The Committee voted unanimously and Chairman Rizwan Ahmed will send St. Mary Parish a letter of approval.

There was discussion on identifying a PIO to get information out to the media and the public regarding what's going on with the SIEC. Suggestions were made that the Committee do research to find the best person familiar with the purpose of the SIEC. It was decided that this discussion could be moved to the next meeting and/or at least until after a Director for the SIEC has been hired.

Special Presentations

There were no special presentations.

Public Comments

On behalf of the Committee, Chief Robert Black recognized Mr. Mike Lambert, President of Louisiana Fire Chief's Association and thanked him for inviting the Committee to take part in the Association meeting. Mr. Lambert responded that he was grateful the SIEC had agreed to participate in this year's event and commented that he'd like the SIEC to consider making their presence an annual event.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Eric Deroche, seconded by Susan Severance. The Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:40 p.m.

**APPENDIX A
GUEST LIST
March 28, 2007**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>
Joe Livingston	OTM
Richard Silverman	DEQ
Bob LaRose	Raytheon/JPS
Christina Dayries	LA State Police
Rhett Westerman	Deep South Communications
MAJ Benjamin Burgoyne	LANG, SIEC
Clyde Turknett	D. H. Marketing
Ricky Jones	Tensas Parish Fire
Jason Broussard	Sorrento Fire Dept.
Leo Graves, Jr.	Gonzales Fire Dept.
Raymond Poche	Prairieville Fire Dept.
Bryan Wimberly	Natchitoches Fire Dept.
Dennis Savoie	Sphere Consulting Group
Ivy E. Cutrer	Denham Springs Fire Dept.
Chuck Bourgeois	Franklin Fire Dept.
Don Breaux	Pierre Part Fire Dept.
Edward Harrell	Winnfield Fire Dept.
Toni Curry	DHH-OPH-PHEPR
H. Butch Browning	City of Gonzales
Nick Vidrine	St. Landry Fire Dept.
Todd Westerman	Deep South Communications
Laura Barton	Roam Secure, Inc.
Ted Demoruelle	Ville Platte Fire Dept.
Daniel Thibodeaux	LAAP Fire Protection Dist. (Bossier & Webster)
Chris Coulon	Adams and Reese
Mike Lambert	Sorrento Fire Dept.